

SENATE BILL 2293
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, relative to voter education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

2-2-1__.

(a) The state coordinator of elections shall adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5 prescribing minimum standards for nonpartisan voter education. In developing the rules, the state coordinator of elections shall review current voter education programs within each county of the state. The standards shall address, but are not limited to, the following subjects:

- (1) Voter registration;
- (2) Balloting procedures, absentee and polling place;
- (3) Voter rights and responsibilities;
- (4) Distribution of sample ballots; and
- (5) Public service announcements.

(b) Each county election commission shall implement the minimum voter education standards, and shall conduct additional nonpartisan education efforts as necessary to ensure that voters have a working knowledge of the voting process.

(c)

(1) By December 15 of each general election year, each county election commission shall report to the state coordinator of elections a detailed description of the voter education programs implemented and any other information that may be useful in evaluating the effectiveness of voter education efforts.

(2) The state coordinator of elections, upon receipt of such information, shall prepare a report on the effectiveness of voter education programs and shall submit the report to the senate state and local government committee and the house state and local government committee by January 31 of each year following a general election.

(3) The state coordinator of elections shall reexamine the rules adopted pursuant to subsection (a) and consider the findings in the report as a basis for adopting modified rules that incorporate successful voter education programs and techniques, as necessary.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.